

increased food production, disease control, safe water and sanitation, schoolrooms and clinics, roads, power grids, Internet connectivity, and the like—has a distinguished record of success.

The successful record of well-targeted aid is grudgingly acknowledged even by a prominent academic critic of aid, Professor Bill Easterly. Buried in his “Bah, Humbug” attack on foreign aid, *The White Man’s Burden*, Mr. Easterly allows on page 176 that “foreign aid likely contributed to some notable successes on a global scale, such as dramatic improvement in health and education indicators in poor countries. Life expectancy in the typical poor country has risen from forty-eight years to sixty-eight years over the past four decades. Forty years ago, 131 out of every 1,000 babies born in poor countries died before reaching their first birthday. Today, 36 out of every 1,000 babies die before their first birthday.

Two hundred pages later Mr. Easterly writes that we should “put the focus back where it belongs: get the poorest people in the world such obvious goods as the vaccines, the antibiotics, the food supplements, the improved seeds, the fertilizer, the roads, the boreholes, the water pipes, the textbooks, and the nurses. This is not making the poor dependent on handouts; it is giving the poorest people the health, nutrition, education, and other inputs that raise the payoff to their own efforts to better their lives.

These things could indeed be done, if American officials weren’t so consistently neglectful of development issues and with many too cynical to learn about the constructive uses of development assistance. They would learn that just as American subsidies of fertilizers and high-yield seed varieties for India in the late 1960s helped create a “Green Revolution” that set that vast country on a path out of famine and on to long-term development, similar support for high-yield seeds, fertilizer, and small-scale water technologies for Africa could lift that continent out of its current hunger-disease-poverty trap. They would discover that the Gates and Rockefeller Foundations have put up \$150 million in the new Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa to support the development and uptake of high-yield seed varieties there, an effort that the US government should now join and help carry out throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

They would also discover that the American Red Cross has learned—and successfully demonstrated—how to mass-distribute antimalaria bed nets to impoverished rural populations in Africa, with such success and at such low cost that the prospect of protecting all of Africa’s children from that mass killer is now actually within reach. Yet they’d also learn that the Red Cross lacks the requisite funding to provide bed nets to all who need them. They would learn that a significant number of other crippling and killing diseases, including African river blindness, schistosomiasis, trachoma, lymphatic filariasis, hookworm, ascariasis, and trichuriasis, could be brought under control for well under \$2 per American citizen per year, and perhaps just \$1 per American citizen!

They would note, moreover, that the number of HIV-infected Africans on donor-supported antiretroviral therapy has climbed from zero in 2000 to 800,000 at the end of 2005, and likely to well over one million today. They would learn that small amounts of funding to help countries send children to school have proved successful in a number of African countries, so much so that the continent-wide goal of universal attendance in primary education is utterly within reach if financial support is provided.

As chairman of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health of the World Health

Organization (2000–2001) and director of the UN Millennium Project (2002–2006), I have led efforts that have canvassed the world’s leading practitioners in disease control, food production, infrastructure development, water and sanitation, Internet connectivity, and the like, to identify practical, proven, low-cost, and scalable strategies for the world’s poorest people such as those mentioned above.

Such life-saving and poverty-reducing measures raise the productivity of the poor so that they can earn and ingest their way out of extreme poverty, and these measures do so at an amazingly low cost. To extend these proven technologies throughout the poorest parts of Africa would require around \$75 billion per year from all donors, of which the US share would be around \$30 billion per year, or roughly 25 cents per every \$100 of US national income.

When we overlook the success that is possible, we become our own worst enemies. We stand by as millions die each year because they are too poor to stay alive. The inattention and neglect of our policy leaders lull us to believe casually that nothing more can be done. Meanwhile we spend hundreds of billions of dollars per year on military interventions doomed to fail, overlooking the fact that a small fraction of that money, if it were directed at development approaches, could save millions of lives and set entire regions on a path of economic growth. It is no wonder that global attitudes toward Africa have reached the lowest ebb in history. It is time for a new approach.

“HONOR FIRST:” COMMEMORATING THE 84TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BORDER PATROL

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 84th birthday of the United States Border Patrol.

Next Wednesday, May 28, 2008, we will be commemorating the establishment of the United States Border Patrol, which began as the Patrol Inspectors in El Paso, Texas. The Border Patrol began under the Bureau of Immigration, then became a part of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2003, the Border Patrol has become an integral part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Today, the Border Patrol is led by my friend and former colleague, Chief David V. Aguilar. Under his strong direction and leadership, the Border Patrol has grown to over 16,000 agents stationed throughout the Nation’s southern, northern, and coastal borders.

Guided by their national strategy, with the proper mix of manpower, technology, and infrastructure, the Border Patrol’s primary goal is to gain and maintain operational control of our borders. Agents protect and defend the United States by preventing the smuggling of illicit materials, and surreptitious entry of persons into the United States. Last year alone, the Border Patrol arrested over 876,000 persons illegally entering or already present in the United States, and seized over 1.8 million pounds of marijuana and 14,000 pounds of cocaine.

Today, the Border Patrol uses state of the art technologies to aid in the performance of their duties. Infrared cameras, remote video surveillance, unattended underground sensors, and ground radar support their national strategy. Their special response teams and tactical units are specially trained for domestic and international emergencies and they have search, trauma, and rescue teams that provide humanitarian and rescue capabilities and perform countless rescues each year. The Border Patrol’s mission is also supported by air and marine assets and personnel from CBP Air and Marine.

Before coming to Congress, I was honored to serve as a Border Patrol agent for 26½ years, of which 13 were spent as sector chief in McAllen and, then, in my home district of El Paso, Texas. My time in the Border Patrol gave me firsthand knowledge of the vigilance and dedication that are constantly required of these agents. The task of protecting our Nation’s borders is no small charge.

Sadly, over the years, the Border Patrol has lost 105 men and women who courageously served our country. Let us take a moment to remember these brave men and women and honor their sacrifice.

The Border Patrol lives by their motto “Honor First”; so today, I ask that we honor the men and women in green for the work they have done and the sacrifices they have made.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Bill Number: H.R. 5658, Navy, RDT&E, Line 181, PE # 0206623M.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Alkan Shelters, LLC, 1701 S. Cushman St., Fairbanks, AK 99701.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: In an effort to support the needs of the Special Operations Community with regard to establishing remote area communications and intelligence, Alkan has designed a C4 module capable for use on the smaller ATV platforms. The module design incorporates the latest in satellite communications, UAV & IR camera surveillance and military mesh network antenna systems. It will provide a means by which to gather field intelligence and transmit this data back to the tactical operations center. This project funding would be used to build a military ATV vehicle and C4 module and has already received \$500,000 in funding from SOCOM.

Description of matching funds: Alkan Shelter, LLC will contribute internal R&D in the amount of \$100,000.

Authorized Amount: \$2,000,000.00.

Project Name: EMI Hardened Expandable Shelter.

Detailed Finance Plan:

Phase 1: \$300,000 Engineering; \$200,000 Testing; \$150,000 Materials.

Phase 2: \$200,000 Engineering; \$300,000 Testing; \$400,000 Expandable Shelter.

Phase 3: \$150,000 Engineering; \$300,000 Testing.